PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

REC'D 1 DEC 2005

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent	's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	Ţ	See Form PCT/IPEA/416				
16-571PCT		International filing date (day/n		Priority date (day/month/year)				
International application No.				13 November 2003 (13.11.2003)				
PCT/US04/37939 12 November 2004 (12.11.20			14)	13 11010111311 2000 \				
PCT/US04/37939 International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC								
IPC(7): F16J 9/00 and US C1.: 92/241, 254								
Applicant								
MERITOOL LLC								
1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.								
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 2 sheets, including this cover sheet.								
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:								
(and to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:								
sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 this report and/or sheets containing rectifications).								
sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment of that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of that goes beyond the Symplemental Box								
b. (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic form only, as containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).								
4 Thin			ing items:					
4. 11118	4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: Box No. I Basis of the report							
	Box No. II Priority							
Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion applicability			n with regard to r	novelty, inventive step and industrial				
	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention						
\boxtimes	Box No. V	V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement						
	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited						
	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application						
	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the	international app	lication				
Date of submission of the demand			Date of complet	ion of this report				
			14 November 2005 (14.11.2005)					
02 June 2005 (0	ng address of the IPE	A/US	Authorized office					
l Mail S	top PCT. Attn: IPBA/U	S	***** ****** 0 P.P.	Million / / / Const				
Comm	issioner for Patents		PHILIPPE S. DE	MALOHANI				
P.O. B	ox 1450 dria, Virginia 223 13-14	150	Telephone No. 76	03-308-0861				
Englishing No. (5711273-3201							
Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(April 2005)								

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.	_
PCT/US04/37939	

Box	No.	I Basis of the report				
1. 7	With:	regard to the language, this report is based on:				
	the international application in the language in which it was filed.					
		a translation of the international application into $\underline{\text{English}}$, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:				
		international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))				
		publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))				
		international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))				
1	With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):					
	\boxtimes	the international application as originally filed/furnished				
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	the description:				
		pages 1-5 as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* NONE received by this Authority on received by the re				
	K-7					
	\boxtimes	the claims: pages 6-8 as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19				
		pages* NONE received by this Authority on				
		pages* NONE received by this Authority on				
	X	the drawings:				
	<u> </u>	pages 1/3-3/3 as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* NONE received by this Authority on				
		pages* NONE received by this Authority on				
		a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.				
3.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:				
	_	the description, pages				
		the claims, Nos.				
		the drawings, sheets/figs				
		the sequence listing (specify):				
		any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify):				
4.		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).				
		the description, pages				
		the claims, Nos.				
		the drawings, sheets/figs				
		the sequence listing (specify):				
l		any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify):				
*)	If iten	n 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."				

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box No. I) (April 2005)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box No. V) (April 2005)

International application No. PCT/US04/37939

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Artic applicability; citations and expla	le 35(2) with regard to novelty, in mations supporting such stateme	nventive step or industrial
1. Statement		
Novelty (N)	Claims 1-8	YES
Novely (14)	Claims NONE	370
		YEG .
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-8</u>	370
	Claims NONE	NO
The second of th	Claims 1-8	YES
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims NONE	210
	Clanis NONE	
Claims 1-8 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 3: be made or used in industry.		lity because the subject matter claimed can